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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/845,016	04/27/2001	Jacques M. Dulin	24347-051US	1461

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EXAMINER

LOUIS JACQUES, JACQUES H

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3661	

DATE MAILED: 06/18/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/845,016	DULIN ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Jacques H. Louis-Jacques	3661

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 April 2001.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-30 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 5.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in-

(1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or
(2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

2. Claims 1-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Liu et al [6,263,272].

Liu et al [6,263,272] discloses a vehicle having a thermal protection arrangement for toddlers (vehicular passengers) and pets (animals), wherein the danger of heat prostration is suffocation is reduced. According to Liu et al, the temperature of the interior or exterior of the vehicle is monitored and a warning or alert signal is generated based on the monitored temperature. The system of Liu et al maintains a "comfortable" temperature range for the interior of the vehicle over the time period the vehicle is parked and left unattended. There is also provided a means of communications to alert the vehicle operator and others in case of exceedingly high or low temperatures in the vehicle interior that might be life-threatening to those toddlers, pets or other incapacitated living beings who are left unattended in the vehicle. See abstract. According further to Liu et al,

a vehicle condition, e.g., ignition state (operator removing the ignition key), vehicle stopped, door open/closed, is sensed and used in issuing the alarm or warning signal along with monitored temperature. See also the abstract and columns 3-4. Still according to Liu et al, the communications system may include a vehicle alarm, a headlight flashing system and a vehicle emergency horn system. These devices may be used singly or in combination to alert the vehicle operator and/or others near by about the dangerous condition that exists for those who are left unattended in the vehicle. The communications system further includes a typical pager device for activating in a well-known manner a beeper that is carried by the vehicle operator. There is also provided a Global Positioning System (GPS) location system, which can be used as a part of the communications system for providing location information of the vehicle to rescuers (e.g., public emergency services, for example, police and paramedics). Still another aspect of the Liu et al system is to provide a voice announcement, or sound or illuminated warning. In addition, Liu et al discloses a living being sensor for detecting an occupancy state of the vehicle. The temperature can be monitored using an ultrasound sensor. See column 7. Referring back to columns 3 and 4, Liu et al discloses automatically adjusting or activating, in response to the monitored temperature, vehicle's power window and power sunroof positions.

3. Claims 1-8, 11-14, 17-25, 28-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Rice [6,028,509].

Rice [6,028,509] recognizes situations that have occurred in which persons have left an infant or pet within a car and adequate ventilation has not been provided causing the interior of the vehicle to overheat, such a condition has often produced fatal results. As a result, Rice provides an alarm system, which takes these two conditions into consideration would be a notable advance in the field of vehicle security (column 1). Accordingly, Rice discloses a voice activated vehicle alarm system for the interior of a vehicle utilizing a temperature sensor for monitoring the interior temperature of the vehicle and producing or triggering a signal in response to the monitored temperature. According to Rice, a sound is generated in response to triggered signal. See also column 2. Rice also discloses occupancy detection for detecting the presence of unattended persons (e.g., a child or a pet). See column 3. Rice also discloses a sound intensity inside the vehicle to detect the occupancy state. The alarm may be an audio alarm, or ultrasonic signal. Also, there is provided a horn for generating the alarm. See column 1

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rice in view of Wenhart [5,222,661].

Rice discloses the limitations as set forth above. However, Rice does not particularly teach controlling a window or a roof panel or an AC system of the vehicle. Wenhart, on the other hand, discloses a vehicle interior air conditioning device, wherein an openable and closable vehicle opening, such as roof opening or a window opening or a heater or AN can be controlled in response to a monitored temperature with the vehicle. Wenhart discloses both an interior temperature monitoring and an exterior temperature monitoring for monitoring the temperature inside and outside of the vehicle. As shown in figure 1, a roof control or a window control or a heater control or an AC (ventilation) control are triggered as a result of the monitored temperature (see columns 1 and 2). See also figure 2. Thus, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to be motivated to modify the system of Rice by incorporating the features from the device of Wenhart because such modification, as suggested by Wenhart in column 1, would provide improved operating convenience.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

4,851,822	Barnett	Jul. 1989
5,311,746	Dombrowski et al	May 1994
5,793,284	Teague	Aug. 1998

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jacques H. Louis-Jacques whose telephone number is (703) 305-9757. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th, 7:30 AM - 4:00 PM (Eastern Time).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William A. Cuchlinski can be reached on (703) 308-3873. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-7687 for regular communications and (703) 305-7687 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1111.

Jacques H. Louis-Jacques
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3661

/jlj
June 12, 2002

Jacques H. Louis-Jacques
JACQUES H. LOUIS-JACQUES
PRIMARY EXAMINER